

REMARKS

Claims 12-28 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1-11 are cancelled and claims 12-28 are added.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-3, 6-7 and 9-10 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) by U.S. Patent 5,965,858 to Suzuki et al. (hereafter Suzuki) and rejects claims 4-5, 8 and 11 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Suzuki in view of the Abstract of JP 406211301A to Kameshima et al. (hereafter Kameshima).

By this Amendment, claims 1-11 are cancelled and new claims 12-28 are added. Claims 12-28 are drafted to refocus the scope of the claims. These claims are added for reasons unrelated to patentability. For at least the reasons stated below, each of claims 12-28 is believed to be patentable over the known prior art.

As discussed in the present specification, an appropriate recycling fee may be paid after a waste product (or used product) is processed completely. In order to perform this, an amount of a processing fee may be calculated for respective contractors based on the used product for a recycle certificate management system 11 that receives information from the contractors (or the used product distribution system 14). This may be accomplished by triggering information (i.e., receiving information) indicating that the used product has transferred to a succeeding contractor.

More specifically, multiple operations (or steps) may be provided in order to determine the amount of the processing fee. These multiple operations may include reception of the used product, distributions (or logistics) and processes for the recycling. These features may be provided and/or monitored by a recycling certificate sales system 12, a used product receiving system 13, a used product distribution system 14, a used product recycle system 15 and a recycle certificate management system 11. The present specification sets forth the calculation of the recycling fee after processing a recycling product completely.

In particular, independent claim 12 recites a method that includes transmitting information, reading information, recording information, and calculating fees among various entities within a network. These various features include transmitting sales information, reading identification information, transmitting receiving information, recording the receiving information, reading the identifying information, transmitting take-over information, calculating the receiving fee, recording the take-over information, reading the identifying information, transmitting incoming product information and calculating a product distributing fee for the product distributing organization by the recycling certificate management system when the recycling certificate management system receives the incoming product information and the takeover information is recorded in the database.

The known prior art does not teach or suggest all these features. In particular, Suzuki calculates a processing price based on the waste product in order to carry out appropriate recycling of the waste product. Suzuki includes a material/part-based

based recycle method database 37 (FIG. 5) in which a processing charge is calculated based on the kinds of the waste products, types and sizes of the products. However, Suzuki prepares the processing charge at a final stage. Suzuki does not disclose recycling processes configured by multiple processes as in the present specification. That is, Suzuki does not perform the various features of independent claim 12 (let alone the respective entities that perform these features recited in independent claim 12). Accordingly, Suzuki does not teach or suggest all the features of independent claim 12.

Additionally, Kameshima extracts useful resources automatically in a resource recycling process and establishes an accounting route of the recycling charges. Kameshima utilizes a manufacturing plant (or factory) 1, a recycling plant (or factory) 2 and a recovery plant (or factory) 3 connected with a network to thereby obtain disassembling steps, compensation and the like based on the information communicated on the network. However, Kameshima simply calculates the compensation in the recycling process. Kameshima does not calculate a processing fee for each operation of the process. Kameshima carries out the recycling process only in the recycling factory 2. Therefore, Kameshima does not disclose that an amount of a processing fee is calculated based on the used product for the respective contractors by triggering the receiving information indicating that the used product has moved to the succeeding contractor. More specifically, Kameshima does not teach or suggest the respective features recited in independent claim 12. Kameshima also does not suggest the features of claim 12 missing from Suzuki.

For at least the reasons set forth above, independent claim 12 defines patentable subject matter. Claims 13-16 depend from claim 12 and therefore also define patentable subject matter.

Additionally, independent claims 17 recite a recycling certificate system that includes a communication unit, a storage unit and a processing unit. Independent claim 17 also recites various features of each of these respective units and their interaction with one another. For at least similar reasons as set forth above, Suzuki and Kameshima do not teach or suggest all the features of independent claim 17. Independent claim 17 therefore defines patentable subject matter. Claims 18-22 depend from claim 17 and therefore also define patentable subject matter.

Additionally, independent claim 23 defines patentable subject matter for at least similar reasons as claim 17. Claims 24-28 depend from claim 23 and therefore also define patentable subject matter.

CONCLUSION

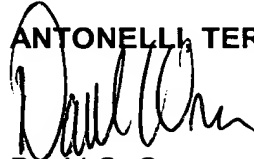
In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the above- identified application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance of claims 12-28 are respectfully requested.

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Respectfully submitted,

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